



Tel: 202-626-8700  
Fax: 202-626-8722  
50 F Street, NW Suite 900  
Washington, DC 20001  
[www.ncfc.org](http://www.ncfc.org)

## **Buy American Provision Included in Agriculture Improvement Act of 2018**

The recently passed Farm Bill includes a provision that requires USDA to fully enforce the existing Buy American requirements for school food purchases and report back to Congress on the steps they have taken to comply. This legislation will help to ensure US taxpayer dollars are being used to support US farmers and ranchers within the school meals programs.



# Summary of the Richard B. Russell National School Lunch Act

- The Richard B. Russell National School Lunch Act, as originally enacted, provides that the Secretary (of USDA) shall require that a school food authority purchase, to the maximum extent practicable, domestic commodities or products.
- The regulations created by the USDA allowed two exceptions, one where a product was not available domestically (such as bananas) or when there is a “significant” price differential.
- Cheap imports have been purchased for use in schools at very minimal price differences.
- Congress reaffirmed their intent that schools purchase, to the maximum extent practicable, domestic products in the 2018 Farm Bill, stating the Secretary shall enforce “full compliance” with the Act passed by Congress, in other words, not the regulations created by USDA.
- The Secretary is required to report back to Congress within 180 days of the passage of the Farm Bill, or by June 2019.
- We expect that the Congress will ensure its original intent is fully enforced, that is purchase of domestic commodities for school lunches, which are funded by taxpayer monies.

Thank you for your continued support of domestically grown and processed fruits and tomatoes.